34864

Cambridge, March 17, 1867

MAR 20

My Dear Friend

I was much pleased to get your kind letter of the 8th, and must steal a moment in which to write you a short letter in reply.

You see that Mr. Peabody has put me upon another of his trusts. I should be glad to know whether it was his own idea, or only that of Mr. Frank Peabody the President of the Essex Institute. I can trace it back only as far as that. If the former it would then appear not unlikely that Mr. George P. may intend still to take some action in the

---

to the Special Meeting of the Academy when we presented the Rumford Medal to Alvan Clark. He came - enjoyed it, and was a good deal attended to. He is now on nomination as a Fellow of the Academy.

I am glad indeed to hear of all the prosperity of the Smithsonian - as to funds, &c - and peaceful support of your views. Also that the change as regards the Library works so very well on all sides and for all interests.

You have now the means to prosecute and.

matter of Dr. Hooker's
letter.

The day I went to Salem
to attend the organizing
meeting of trustees, Mr. P.
had gone to Boston. — So
I have never yet had the
opportunity of paying
my respects — which,
however, I will take some
other opportunity to do
before he returns to London
in May. — Though it is
not in my disposition to
put myself in his way

When shall you see
Prof. Marsh?

I have been all
along in confidential
relations with Prof. Marsh
in regard to the gifts of Mr.
Peabody here at Cambridge
and at Salem. But I
do not in the least know
whether he — or whether any
one except Mr. Winthrop
— knows anything of Dr.
Hooker letter. And I
think it not improbable
that the whole matter
has passed out of Mr.
Peabody's mind. He
has certainly done much
in this country, and has
done it remarkably well
—

I had called on Com.
Rodgers, — along with Mr. &
Mrs. Loring, and had met
the Comm. & Mrs. Rodgers —
both interesting people — at
my Father-in-law's table.
I had also invited him

for Gray has
[illegible] you are capable
[illegible] [illegible] Bill

Asa Gray
March 17. '77.

Mrs. Gray will soon write to Helen — to whom — and to her sisters & Mrs. Strong — we both send our love

Ever Yours

A. Gray

P.S. I have just received a copy addressed to Smithsonian of the Proceedings of the Horticultural & Botanical Congress at London ~~last May~~ in May last. — I will send it on by Express. A.G.

promote scientific researches etc.—

Hooker writes me over & over — strongly representing the great need of that Index or Key to the desperately scattered publications on Western N. Amer. Botany. He knows that Thurber undertook to prepare it, & that you were to print it — and that the amount of work Thurber is immersed in prevents it from being finished. So the large amount of work already done on it is lost. Possibly Thurber might get somebody to ~~help him~~ helps him out with the work if he could pay for it. Can you appropriate say $300 for this to be paid when the work is done?

that might, perhaps,
secure it.

I am glad that you
secured the Coast Survey
for Peirce, & made
him take it. — I know
it was your doing.

It was the best thing
under the circumstances
and I am not surprised
at all at the result.

If he had positively
refused it, you should,
I think, have taken up
B. A. Gould for it, if
the Staff at Washington
would work under him.

Mrs. Gray has, had a
suffering time — a month
or two ago — but is now
pretty well.

I urge her to leave
my two nieces here on
my hands, and come on
to you for the rest of
this wretched month.
But she will not —
and, in fact cannot.

She has, moreover, taken
up the pen to assist me
in the way of correspondence,
and writes many of my
letters. You will wish
she had written this — on
account of the legibility it
would then have had! But
as it is a ~~private~~ Private